

InterNews™ 1.1
Dartmouth Version

Computing Services
Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
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The latest version of InterNews is available via FTP in the
directory /pub/mac of the host [ftp.dartmouth.edu](ftp://ftp.dartmouth.edu).

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.c. Conventions

The following conventions are used throughout this document:

command In text, commands are shown in this bold type.

Return In text, keys are indicated in this bold type. Combination keystrokes (that is, keys that you press simultaneously) are shown as -X; you do not type the hyphen between these keystrokes.

InterNews In text, program titles and documents are shown in this italic type.

example In examples, system output is printed in this type.

example In examples, user input is printed in this bold type.

.c.Introduction

.c2.The Usenet News

InterNews is a Macintosh program for sharing information among many people. It uses a service called the "Usenet News," which has been available to users of larger computers for many years. The Usenet News manages text articles written by people at educational, commercial, and government institutions all around the world. These articles are organized into "newsgroups" that focus discussions into specific topics across the whole spectrum of human experience: serious technical discussions, political opinion, items for sale, financial advice, personals, humor, and more. Currently, thousands of newsgroups exist, with contributors from all over the world.

.c2.Newsgroup Organization

Newsgroups are organized into a hierarchy. At the top level are topic areas such as comp (computers), rec (recreation), sci (science), biz (business), and alt (alternative, or "anything goes"). Within each of these topic areas are numerous subtopics, most with further subtopics of their own. Some groups may be local to your site. The names of these groups will start with the name of your institution.

No enforced rules govern the creation of newsgroups, although some conventions guide the process. Newsgroups are usually created by interested persons using an established discussion and balloting process for groups that have a widespread and somewhat "official" purpose.

Other groups, recognizable by the term 'alt' in their names, are created by individuals for more "casual" use. Most newsgroups are open to all participants for reading and posting (contributing articles). Other groups are moderated, meaning that all postings go to a single person who is the moderator, and that person determines which articles will be shown to all readers.

InterNews uses collections of newsgroups called "subscriptions." Three subscriptions are created for you automatically: "All Newsgroups" so you can browse through all existing groups, "Welcome" with a couple of helpful groups for new users, and "New Newsgroups" to show you what groups have been created lately. From these you can create your own subscriptions to hold the groups in which you are most interested.

Each newsgroup is presented for viewing with a further organization into "topics." A topic is a list of "articles" sent by participants regarding a particular discussion subject. Topics are similar to the "threads" maintained by some other Usenet newsreaders. They organize articles by subject line rather than by reference line. As you read the articles in a topic, InterNews remembers which you have read so that you do not have to see them again unless you want to. This information is kept in a

“subscription file” on your Macintosh disk. You can skip whole articles, even whole newsgroups, by marking them as having been read.

.c2.Posting to Newsgroups

You can contribute to a discussion by posting your own article, much the same way that you might compose an electronic mail message. In addition, you can respond directly to people by mailing a message from InterNews. This is useful in cases where you want to make contact with the poster of an article, but do not want to share your response with everyone else.

.c.Getting Started

.c2.What You Need to Use InterNews

InterNews requires a Macintosh® computer with MacTCP™ or KSP. It works under Macintosh System 6.0 or later. The Macintosh must be connected to the Dartmouth network.

.c2.Using InterNews for the First Time

1. Double-click on the InterNews icon.
2. The following dialog will appear asking you to choose a subscription file or to make a new one. Click on the New button.
3. After a minute or two of talking to the “news host” computer, InterNews will create a new subscription file with the predefined subscriptions in it. These will appear as icons in a window named “InterNews Subscriptions-1.” This procedure is somewhat time consuming because InterNews is getting the list of newsgroups from the news host. This only has to be done once for a subscription file, though, so the program will be much quicker to start up after the first time.
4. Double-click on the Welcome subscription. A new window will appear with a short list of newsgroups in the top section, or “pane,” of the window.
5. Select the first newsgroup by clicking on it twice, then select a topic in the middle pane the same way. The articles in that topic will appear in the bottom pane. This will give you both a flavor of the program and some information about how to use the Usenet News.

.c.About Subscriptions

A subscription is a collection of newsgroups, possibly with special properties. Some subscriptions are provided for you, and you can make any number of your own.

The All Newsgroups subscription contains all the newsgroups received at your site; you can copy newsgroups from it, although you can't add to or delete from it. This is where you find newsgroups of interest (the Find command helps); once you've found them, you can read them there or drag them into a subscription of your own making.

The New Newsgroups subscription contains newly created newsgroups. InterNews checks for new newsgroups once each day (or less often if you specify differently in the Preferences dialog). You can delete the New Newsgroups subscription, and a new one will be created automatically the next time there are new newsgroups. You can inspect the new groups immediately, or wait for a time of your own choosing. You can copy newsgroups from this subscription and delete those you've inspected (InterNews will not delete any for you), but you can't otherwise modify this subscription. All newsgroups listed in this subscription are also listed in the All Newsgroups subscription.

You are encouraged to construct your own subscriptions using the New Subscription command from the Subscriptions menu. Give them whatever name you want. You can drag any number of newsgroups into them, where they will appear each time you run the program. You can also add groups using the Add Newsgroup command from the Reading menu. You can sort the newsgroups in a subscription by dragging their names into any order you want. You can also delete newsgroups and copy newsgroups to other subscriptions. Setting up your own subscriptions will allow you to read the news more quickly.

.c.Menus and Windows

.c2.The File Menu

In addition to the traditional Page Setup and Quit menu options, the InterNews File menu offers:

- New Subscription File will create a new subscription file.
- Open Subscription File... will open an existing subscription file.
- Close Subscription File will close the current subscription file.
- Close Window will close the front-most window.
- Save Subscription File will save your current subscription file.
- Save Subscription File As... will save your current subscription information in a new file.
- Save Composition will save the contents of a composition window in a file.
- Save Article As Text... will save the entire article in a text file, even if it was too long to display.
- Append Article to Text File... will append the entire article to the specified text file, even if it was too long to display.
- Print... will print the selected article or composition, or the current help topic. If text is selected in the frontmost window, the name of this item will be Print Selected Text... and only the current selection will be printed.
- Sign On will authenticate you for posting by asking for your name and password. Sign Off will sign you off. You can always read articles whether you are signed on or not.
- Disconnect from Server will disconnect you from the news server; Connect to Server will make the connection again.

.c2.The Edit Menu

In addition to the traditional Macintosh Edit menu items (Undo, Cut, Copy, Paste, Clear, and Select All), the InterNews Edit menu offers:

- Show Clipboard will display the current contents of the clipboard.
- Preferences... presents a dialog that lets you set many different preferences so that you can customize the behavior of InterNews.
- Set Host Addresses... presents a dialog that lets you designate the news and mail host addresses for your network.

.c2.The Subscriptions Menu

- Clean Up Icon(s) will align the selected icons to a fixed, invisible grid. You can also clean up icons by dragging them while holding down the Option key.
- New Subscription will create a new subscription in the Subscriptions window.

- Open Selected Subscription(s) will open the selected icons in the Subscriptions window by creating a Reading window for each.
 - Delete Subscription(s) will delete the selected subscription icons in the Subscriptions window. It is undoable.
 - Create Newsgroup... will let you submit a request for a new local newsgroup in the dartmouth.alt... hierarchy.
 - Check for New Newsgroups will ask the news host for any new newsgroups that may have been created since the last time you checked.
 - Clear New Newsgroups removes all newsgroups from the New Newsgroup subscription. The subscription will not be deleted.
 - Tune Up... brings your subscription file up to date in several ways: It checks for any new newsgroups that may have been missed, it removes newsgroups that are no longer in use, and it compacts the file by eliminating information about articles that have expired.
 - Import .newsrsrc file... will convert a UNIX .newsrsrc file into a subscription, remembering what you had read. You can move the file from UNIX to your Macintosh using Dartmouth's Fetch software or other FTP client programs.
 - Export .newsrsrc file... will convert all your subscriptions into one UNIX .newsrsrc file (which includes information about what you have read); the file can then be moved to UNIX using Fetch or other FTP client programs.
- .c2.The Reading Menu

- Sort Newsgroups offers a hierarchical menu from which you can choose to:
Sort Newsgroups Alphabetically, which will alphabetically sort the list of newsgroups in a subscription you have made.
Sort Newsgroups by Most Unread will sort the list of newsgroups in a subscription according to the number of unread articles in each. The newsgroup with the most unread articles will appear first.
Sort Newsgroups by Least Unread will sort the list of newsgroups in a subscription according to the number of unread articles in each. The newsgroup with the least unread articles will appear first.
- Refresh All Newsgroups will update any shown newsgroups which have had new articles added since the connection to the news server was made.
- Find... selects the next newsgroup or topic whose name contains a given string.
- Find Again does another Find, using the previous string.
- Add Newsgroup will present a list of all the newsgroups so that you can add one or more to the subscription.
- Remove Newsgroup will delete the selected newsgroup.
- Mark Newsgroup Read marks every article in the newsgroup as read;

it's undoable. If you canceled while getting a newsgroup, only the articles shown will be marked.

- Mark Read Up To Selection marks every article up to the selected topic as read; it's undoable. If you canceled while getting a newsgroup, only the articles shown will be marked.
- Show All Articles in Newsgroup (when just unread ones are shown) will get and display all articles.
- Show Just Unread Articles in Newsgroup (when all are shown) will get and display just the unread ones.
- Show/Hide Article Header will add/remove the header to/from the text of the article.
- Top of Article will scroll to the top of the first visible article.
- Jump to Next Article will scroll to the next article that is completely out of sight.
- Convert Article (Rot13) will decode and re-encode articles (usually jokes) that have been rot13-encoded (they look like gibberish).
- Cancel Article... will let you cancel the selected article if you were the one who posted it.
- Set Reading Fonts... will let you set the font of each pane in all Reading windows.

.c2.The Compose Menu

- New Composition will open a blank window for composing an article or a mail message.
- Open Composition... will open a saved composition.
- Forward Article will open a Compose window with the entire text of the article you were just reading so that you can forward it to another person via electronic mail.
- Convert Selection (Rot13) will encode or decode the currently selected text using the 'Rotate 13' method.
- Insert Text File... will insert the contents of a text file into a composition.
- Quote Selected Text will reformat the text currently selected in a Compose window to indicate that you are quoting the text of another article.
- Save Window Position and Size will store the current position and size of the Compose window. InterNews will initialize all other Compose windows to that position and size.
- Set Composing Font... will let you set the font of the bottom pane of all Composing windows.

.c2.The Windows Menu

- Help will open a window with a collection of Help topics, most of

which are also presented in this document.

- Network Monitor will open a debugging window that shows all communications with the host servers. Use this to help troubleshoot network problems. All communications will be slower when this window is open.
- FTP Access will open a window that lets you communicate with another program to get a remote file using the UNIX File Transfer Protocol. Refer to the “Anonymous FTP” section of this manual for instructions on using it.
- Send To Back will send the front-most window to the back.
- The name of your subscription file appears next. Choosing this item will bring that subscription window to the front, opening it if it has been closed.
- The names of your subscriptions appear next, one item for each. Choosing one of these will open that subscription and bring its Reading window to the front.
- The names of any open Compose windows appear next, one item for each. Choosing one of these will bring the associated window to the front.
- Open windows are marked with a diamond.

.c2.The Subscription Window

The Subscription window shows the existing subscriptions as icons. Subscription icons can be manipulated as in the Macintosh Finder, and can be created, opened, and deleted using the Subscriptions menu.

.c2.Reading Windows

A Reading window shows the contents of a subscription:

- It can be re-sized or zoomed; the articles in the bottom pane will adjust their size. The text will wrap so no horizontal scrolling is needed.
- The double horizontal lines are split bars, which determine the sizes of the panes; drag them up and down to change sizes.

The top pane of a Reading window shows all the newsgroups in the subscription:

- An unread bullet (black means some articles are unread), the number of unread articles, and the total number of articles in the newsgroup are shown in a user subscription. The numbers are estimates. In the special subscriptions that InterNews creates for you automatically, these numbers are displayed only while a newsgroup is being shown.
- Click the bullet at the left to mark that newsgroup as read (it goes white) or unread (it goes black); this is undoable.
- Click a newsgroup to select it; right-arrow will select the next one, left-arrow will select the previous one.
- Double-click a newsgroup to show all the topics in that newsgroup in

the middle pane; the Return or Enter key will show the selected newsgroup. You can hold the Option key down to show just 100 articles at a time.

- Drag a newsgroup to change its position in the top pane list or to move it to another subscription. Hold down the Option key to drag a copy to another subscription.

The middle pane of a Reading window (if not blank) shows all the topics in the selected newsgroup:

- An unread bullet (black means some articles are unread), the number of unread articles, and the total number of articles in the topic are shown.
- Click the bullet at the left to mark that topic as read (it goes white) or unread (it goes black); this is undoable.
- Click a topic to select it; down-arrow will select the next one, up-arrow will select the previous one. Hold down the Option key to mark the previously selected topic as read.
- Double-click a topic to show all the articles in that topic in the pane below; the Return or Enter keys will show the selected topic.
- Command-Space (-space) will show the next topic in the pane below. Hold down the Option key to mark the previously selected topic as read.
- A topic is marked as read when you click its bullet or when all its articles have been read.

The bottom pane of a Reading window (if not blank) shows all the articles in the selected topic, in date and time order:

- The article number, the subject of the article, and the sender appear in a header line.
- Click and hold on the article number to pop up the full article header.
- Click the bullet at the left to mark that article as read (it goes white) or unread (it goes black); this is undoable.
- Click on an article to select it for printing or saving. It will be framed with a black rectangle. If there is only one article in a topic, it is selected for you automatically.
- Both the Page Down key and the Space bar will scroll a page down; the Page Up key will scroll a page up. The Home and End keys will scroll to the beginning and end of the topic, respectively.
- An article is marked as read when you click its bullet or when all of it has been shown (use the Reading category of the Preferences dialog for alternative ways to determine when an article has been read); this is undoable.

You can choose an alternate layout for any Reading window by clicking on the small “layout” icon at the top left of the window. The alternate layout places the newsgroup